

also raised her two children, John and Andrea, with warmth and kindness and was the proud grandmother of Carter.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Linda Romanik, an advocate for the public good who served this House with distinction, who made the workplace a better place for workers, and who was dedicated to her community and family.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STRAIT EXCHANGE FOUNDATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in the last two and a half years, through Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) and Mainland China's Association for Relations Across the Strait (ARATS), Taiwan and Mainland China have held several rounds of talks and concluded many economic and trade agreements, most important of which was the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) inked last June 29 in Chongqing China.

ECFA boosts Taiwan's economy and creates tens of thousands of job opportunities. Further, the agreement will help Taiwan's economy to benefit from regional integration and develop new international markets while attracting foreign direct investments in Taiwan. In addition to the economic benefits for both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, the signing of this agreement has significantly eased tensions across the Taiwan Strait. The two sides are now linked by more than 300 direct flights per week. Mainland China is Taiwan's largest trading partner with cross-strait trade totaling close to \$110 billion in 2009, according to Taiwan statistics.

Clearly, the Straits Exchange Foundation is to be congratulated on its 20th anniversary for its good work. SEF has brought prosperity and peace to the Taiwan Strait. As we celebrate the successes of the SEF, we know much lies ahead for the SEF and the ARATS. For instance, the people in Taiwan and the international community continue to have strong concerns about China's military expansion and deployments.

So far, China has yet to renounce the use of force regarding Taiwan and China's military build-up across the Taiwan Strait continues unabated with more than 1,100 missiles pointed in Taiwan's direction. Although tensions have abated and there seems to be no danger of China using force against Taiwan, China's military deployments worry policymakers in both Taipei and Washington.

While the United States is happy to see rapprochement between the two sides, it is my opinion that to ensure Taiwan's future, we must help Taiwan develop the confidence to resist any outside aggression. We should and must continue to stand by our commitment to provide Taiwan with defense articles and defense services. Our recent decision to notify Congress of the approval of arms sales to Taiwan worth \$6.4 billion is an indication of our commitment to meet the obligations spelled out in the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). This has been a U.S. policy followed by successive Administrations for more than 30 years.

Again, I congratulate the leaders of Taiwan's SEF, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) and ROC President Ma Ying-jeou for their vision and hard work in improving cross-strait relations. Together they have restored U.S. trust and reversed the deterioration in cross-strait relations that took place prior to May 2008.

HONORING TREVOR BAYNE

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a rising star in motorsports.

On February 20, 2011, Knoxville native Trevor Bayne raced into NASCAR history by becoming the youngest driver ever to win the Daytona 500.

It was only his second sprint Cup race ever.

The night before his victory, Trevor celebrated his twentieth birthday. Little did he know that the next day, his childhood dream would come true.

Trevor's love of racing began when his father bought him a go-kart when he was 5 years old, and he never looked back.

As a boy, his hero was NASCAR legend Jeff Gordon. Until Sunday, Gordon was the youngest driver ever to win the Daytona 500, an honor that now belongs to Trevor.

Just before heading to Victory Lane, Trevor said four words that summed up his historic feat: "Are you kidding me?"

Because of his overnight success, Trevor is fast becoming one of the most popular young drivers in his sport, but he is much more than that.

Trevor is a young man who puts his faith before winning and his family ahead of individual accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, Knoxville and the State of Tennessee are very proud of 2011 Daytona 500 Champion Trevor Bayne, and I urge my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD to join me in recognizing this extraordinary young man.

COMMENDING THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida for 100 years of dedicated service to our South Florida community. For a century, it has amassed a distinguished history of honorable service to the people of Miami-Dade County. I have the great privilege of representing the 18th Congressional District of Florida which falls within the boundaries of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is the largest circuit in the state of Florida and the fourth largest trial court in the United States. The circuit is one of 20 in the state. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit's jurisdiction consists of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and has 123 circuit and

county court judges presiding and over 14,000 attorneys serving a county wide population of over 2.5 million people. The court's philosophy is written on a placard that appears above the bench in each courtroom with the words, "We Who Labor Here Seek Only Truth."

When Florida entered into statehood in 1845, the state was served by only four judicial circuits: North, South, East, and West. The Southern Circuit spanned thousands of square miles, covering Dade, Monroe, Hillsborough, and Benton counties, and was served by only one circuit judge. The judge had the daunting task of traveling by train, boat, or horse across thousands of square miles to serve the entire circuit. In 1868, Florida's legislature replaced the four compass point circuits with seven numbered circuits. A constitutional amendment added an eighth circuit in 1902.

Florida's growing population soon created a need for additional circuits; so in 1910, the people of the State of Florida amended their constitution to give the legislature the authority to create additional judicial circuits as needed. After considering several plans to restructure the state circuit court system, the legislature expanded the system to 11 circuits in 1911. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit was one of the state's three new circuits.

Originally, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit served the counties of Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe. At the time, Dade County had a population of roughly 12,000 people and was growing steadily. The first judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit was Livingstone Wellesley Bethel, a first generation immigrant raised in Key West, who spent almost 40 years of his life in public service. Judge Bethel served the people of Florida in many capacities including mayor of Key West, Lieutenant Governor of Florida, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and county and circuit judge.

Our country was built on the foundation that all men are created equal and with certain unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our founding fathers took care to protect these and other fundamental rights, establishing a three branch federal government and state governments. They recognized the importance and need for a judicial system to provide checks and balances in order to protect the rights of citizens, stating in the preamble of our Constitution, "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." A foundation of our judicial system is "equal justice under law." Our federal and state courts work tirelessly to protect the rights of all Americans and are dedicated to carrying out the mandates of our Constitution.

From its modest beginnings in 1911, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit has grown to be one of our nation's most highly respected and important legal jurisdictions. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is celebrating its rich history and legacy through centennial celebrations that include special artwork, a reenactment of the historic 1930 Al Capone perjury trial, and an overview of the civil rights movement in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is one of busiest and most prestigious

jurisdictions in our nation, and is recognized as a beacon of justice. The circuit fully embodies the commitment of our nation to provide "equal justice under law." For the last 100 years, the men and women presiding over the Eleventh Judicial Circuit have served the people of South Florida with honor and distinction. I thank the judges, attorneys, and staff of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit for their commitment to justice and the rule of law.

The current members of the court are:

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Barbara Areces; Antonio Arzola; Jerald Bagley; Jennifer D. Bailey; Mary Barzee Flores; Scott M. Bernstein; Stanford Blake; Beth Bloom; Joel H. Brown, Chief Judge; Beatrice Butchko; Marcia B. Caballero; Gisela Cardonne Ely; Jeri B. Cohen; Yvonne Colodny; Jorge E. Cueto; Abby Cynamon; Maria Espinosa Dennis; Reemberto Diaz; Amy Steele Donner; Ronald Dresnick; Pedro P. Jr. Echarte; Spencer Eig; Joseph P. Farina; Ivan F. Fernandez; Jose L. Fernandez; Leon M. Firtel; Gill S. Freeman; Darrin P. Gayles; Michael A. Genden; Mindy S. Glazer; Stacy D. Glick; Monica Gordo; Milton Hirsch; Jacqueline Hogan Scola; Julio Jimenez; Sandy Karlan; Maria M. Korvick; Maxine Cohen Lando; Lester Langer; Mark King Leban; Cindy S. Lederman; Ellen Leesfield; Peter R. Lopez; Valerie R. Manno Schurr; Antonio Marin; Bronwyn C. Miller; David C. Miller; Celeste H. Muir; Dennis J. Murphy; Victoria Platzer; Orlando A. Prescott; Israel Reyes; Jose M. Rodriguez; Rosa I. Rodriguez; Jorge Rodriguez-Chomat; Arthur L. Rothenberg; Samantha Ruiz-Cohen; Maria I. Sampedro-Iglesia; Migna Sanchez-Llorens; George A. Sarduy; Nushin G. Sayfie; John Schlesinger; Marc Schumacher; Lawrence A. Schwartz; Robert N. Jr. Scola; Bernard S. Shapiro; Victoria S. Sigler; Scott J. Silverman; Bertila Soto; William Thomas; John W. Thornton Jr.; Marisa Tinkler Mendez; Daryl E. Trawick; Dava J. Tunis; Ellen Sue Venzler; and Diane V. Ward.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COURT JUDGES OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Victoria R. Brennan; Don S. Cohn; Joseph I. Jr. Davis; Victoria del Pino; Robin Faber; Rosa C. Figarola; Mary J. Francis; Gloria Gonzalez-Meyer; Michaelle Gonzalez-Paulson; Wendell M. Graham; Andrew S. Hague; Eric Hendon; Charles K. Johnson; Carroll J. Kelly; Lawrence D. King; Shelley J. Kravitz; Luise Krieger-Martin; Myriam Lehr; Steve Leifman; Norma S. Lindsey; Patricia Marino Pedraza; Cristina Miranda; Edward Newman; Maria D. Ortiz; Ana M. Pando; Gladys Perez; Catherine M. Pooler; Judith Rubenstein; Nuria Saenz; Caryn C. Schwartz; Jacqueline Schwartz; Sheldon R. Schwartz; Fred Seraphin; Lourdes Simon; Samuel J. Slom; Rodney Smith; Linda Singer Stein; Teretha Lundy Thomas; Lisa S. Walsh; Deborah White-Labora; and Andrea R. Wolfson.

SENIOR JUDGES OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Mercedes Armas Bach; Eli Breger; Philip Cook; Robert M. Deehl; Charles D. Edelstein; Richard Y. Feder; Eugene J. Fierro; Ronald Friedman; Seymour Gelber; Norman S. Gerstein; Marvin H. Gillman; William E. Gladstone; Leonard E. Glick; Jon I. Gordon; Edward S. Klein; Judith L. Kreeger; Barbara S. Levenson; Richard V. Margolius; Robert H. Newman; Thomas K. Petersen; Steven D. Robinson; Jeffrey Rosinek; Alan R. Schwartz; Martin Shapiro; Roger A. Silver; Stuart M. Si-

mons; Raphael Steinhart; Herbert Stettin; and David L. Tobin.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL L. OATES

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Lieutenant General Michael L. Oates, the Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), who will retire from service on July 1, 2011.

LTG Oates has honorably served his country for more than three decades. Since graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979, LTG Oates has commanded troops from Company to Division level. He is a veteran of Desert Shield and Desert Storm and served three tours in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy and Chief Operating Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority, as the Deputy Commanding General (Operations) 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and the Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division/Multi-National Division-Center. Among his many decorations, LTG Oates has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have supported LTG Oates' mission to provide the necessary training, equipment, and analytical capabilities necessary to protect our service men and women from the threats posed by IEDs. Having served in both Iraq and Afghanistan myself, I have experienced firsthand the dangers that IEDs pose to our troops. Under Oates' leadership, JIEDDO has made significant strides to combat those dangers by not only reducing the effectiveness of the IEDs, but also by helping to eliminate the enemy networks that seek to use these devices to harm our troops.

His approach on Capitol Hill brought a high degree of candor, integrity, and focus. Few missions are as important as JIEDDO's efforts to defeat the IED as a weapon of strategic influence and LTG Oates carried out that mission superbly, executing our counter-IED (C-IED) support to the Afghanistan surge and significantly reducing the effectiveness of IEDs. Also under his leadership, JIEDDO improved its processes and control measures to reduce wasteful spending, improve transparency to Congress, and demonstrate a greater level of accountability.

I have gotten to know Lieutenant General Michael Oates well during his tenure at JIEDDO. He is an inspiring leader, a teacher, and a Texan. The philosophy he instilled in his staff and demonstrated by example in his daily work come from James P. Owen's book, "Cowboy Values." As he concludes his military career and rides off to face even tougher endeavors, he takes Owen's "Code of the West," with him:

Live each day with courage.
Take pride in your work.
Always finish what you start.
Do what has to be done.
Be tough, but fair.
When you make a promise, keep it.

Ride for the brand.

Talk less and say more.

Remember that some things aren't for sale.
Know where to draw the line.

I am proud to share in the celebration of LTG Oates' military career, recognizing both his extraordinary leadership of JIEDDO and his distinguished military service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, February 28, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 148 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 394, as amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 149 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 347, as amended), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 150 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 368, as amended).

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, while Marshall University is the oldest public institution of higher education in West Virginia, tracing its founding to 1837, it took nearly 125 years of sustained growth before the normal school established on a knoll in rural Cabell County would truly come of age.

Compared to the news that seems to grab attention nowadays, it is probably difficult for today's students to understand the significance of the granting of university status to the former Marshall College. But 50 years ago, the designation as a state university meant far more than just a name.

Video footage and still photographs shot on Marshall's campus the day the news broke that the West Virginia Legislature had passed the university bill depict a student body that celebrated as if the football team had won a national championship. A special edition of *The Parthenon* hailed, "We are now Marshall 'U'!" Crowds gathered as "College" was symbolically chipped off one of Marshall's state highway historical markers. Students taped over the word "college" on the team sweatshirts they proudly wore. Cheering and running across campus, they acted as if a war had just ended. And, in essence, that is exactly what had happened. March 2, 1961, marked the end of a multi-year battle for Marshall's official recognition as an advanced higher learning institution in the state of West Virginia.

In his book, "Marshall University: An Institution Comes of Age, 1837-1980," Marshall historian Dr. Charles H. Moffatt noted that in 1961, university status would make Marshall the first university located in the vast stretches of central Appalachia between Lexington, Kentucky, and Lexington, Virginia, and between